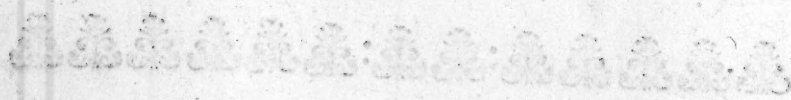


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The Wonderful
W O N D E R
O F
W O N D E R S, &c.





The Wonderful

W O N D E R



W O R S E



THE
Wonderful Wonder
OF
WONDERS:
OR
The HOLE-HISTORY
OF THE
LIFE and ACTIONS
OF
Mr. B R E E C H,
The Eighth Wonder of the World.

BEING
An Accurate Description of the Birth, Education,
Manner of Living, Religion, Politicks, Learning,
&c. of mine A———.

By Dr. S———t. K

With a P R E F A C E, and some few N O T E S,
explaining the most difficult Passages.

*Then as a Jest for this time let it pass,
And he that likes it not, may kiss my A———*
Jo. Haynes.

The SIXTH EDITION.

L O N D O N;

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(Price Four-Pence.)



PREFACE.

Gentle Reader,



HO I am not insensible how many Thousand Persons have been, and still are, with great Dexterity handling this Subject,

ject, and no less aware of what infinite Reams of Paper have been laid out upon it; however, in my Opinion, no Man living has touch'd it with greater Nicety, and more delicate Turns, than our Reverend Author. But because there is some intended Obscurity in this Relation, and Curiosity, inquisitive of Secrets, may, possibly not enter into the Bottom and Depth of the Subject, it was thought not improper to take off the Veil, and gain the Reader's Favour, by enlarging his Insight. A R S enim non habet Inimicum nisi ignorantem. 'Tis well known, that it has been the Policy of all Times, to deliver down Important Subjects
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by Emblem and Riddle, and not to suffer the Knowledge of Truth to be derived to us in plain and simple Terms, which are generally as soon forgot as conceived. For this Reason, the Heathen Religion is mostly couched under Mythology, and the Christian System in great part conveyed to us by Parable. For the like Reason (this being a FUNDAMENTAL in its kind) the Author has thought fit to wrap up his Treasure in clean Linen, and stow it in a Band-box, which it is our Business to lay open, and set in a due Light: for I have observed, upon any accidental Discovery, the least Glimpse has given great Diversion to the eager Spec-

Spectator, as many Ladies could testify, were it proper, or the Case would admit.

But that the Reader may the better relish the Contents of this Subject, I advise him to keep a steady Eye upon the single Point in Question; for the more his Fancy roves, the more will the Author's Design scape his Understanding: and give me leave to hope, in his Name, that the nicest Readers have no occasion to be disgusted from the Familiarity of the Subject; if they consider, that the coarsest Offices of Life are indispensably necessary; if they consider likewise, that the venerable Scholiasts of Antiquity,
and

and even the Fathers of the Church, have not scrupled to dwell upon some Grossities; and in Poetry, Homer thought it no diminution to one of his Heroes to have him caught turning his own Spit; or to another, to have him surprized in his Nudities, tho at the same time he put a young Princess to the Squeak. Nor has this Subject furnished us with less Wisdom than Diversion, as the many Proverbs in every body's Mouth (with Reverence be it spoken) sufficiently testify. The politest Companies have vouchsafed to smile at the bare Name; and some People of Fashion have been so little scrupulous of bringing it

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in Play, that, as our Reverend Author informed us in a late Dissertation, it was the usual Saying of a Knight, and a Man of good Breeding, That whenever he rose, his A—se rose with him.



THE



THE
Wonderful Wonder
OF
WONDERS, &c.



HERE is a certain Person lately arrived in this City, whom it is very proper the World should be informed of. His Character may, perhaps, be thought very inconsistent, improbable, and unnatural; however, I intend to draw it with the utmost Regard to

Truth. This I am the better qualified to do, because he is a sort of *Dependant* upon our Family, and *almost* of the *same Age*; tho I cannot directly say, I have ever *seen* him. He is a Native of this Country, and hath lived long among us, but what appears wonderful, and hardly credible, was never seen (1) *before*, by any Mortal.

It is true indeed, he always chuses the *lowest* Place in Company, and contrives it so, to keep *out of Sight*. It is reported, however, that in his younger Days he was frequently *exposed to View* but always against his Will, and was sure to *smart* for it.

(1) *Before.*] You must understand, that the *Posteriors* lie under an absolute Necessity, by their Situation, never to be seen *before*; but always, as the School-Men term it, *ex parte post*.

As

As to his Family, he came into the World a younger Brother, being of *six* Children, the *fourth* in order of (2) Birth : Of which the Eldest is now *Head* of the House, the second and third carry *Arms* ; but the two youngest are only *Footmen*. Some indeed add, that he hath likewise a Twin Brother, who lives *over-against* him, and keeps a (3) *Victualling-House* : He has the Reputation to be a *close, griping, squeezing* Fellow ; and that when his Bags are *full*, he is often *Needy* ; yet, when the Fit takes him, as fast as he gets, he *lets it fly*.

(2) He alludes to the Manner of our Birth, the *Head* and *Arms* appearing before the *Posteriors*, and the two *Feet*, which he merrily calls the *Footmen*.

(3) *Victualling-House*.] The *Belly*, which receives and digests our Nourishment.

When

When in *Office*, (4) no one *dischargeth* himself, or *does his Business* better. He hath sometimes *strained hard* for an Honest Livelihood, and never got *a Bit*, till every body else had *done*.

One Practice appears very blameable in him, that every Morning he privately frequents *unclean Houses*, where any modest Person would blush to be seen. And altho this be generally known, yet the World, as censorious as it is, is so kind to overlook this *Infirmity* in him. To deal impartially, it must be granted, that he is too great a Lover of himself, and very often consults his own (5) *Ease* at

(4) *Office*.] *Necessary-House*, which he afterwards calls *Unclean Houses*.

(5) *Ease*.] This may be explained by the following ludicrous Expressions: *Better out than in. 'Tis an ill Tenant who pays no Rent. If these be your Groans, the Devil be your Comforter, &c.*

the

the Expence of his best Friends. But this is one of his *blind Sides*; and the best of Men, I fear, are not without *them*.

He hath been constituted by the *higher Powers* in the Station of *Receiver General*; in which Employment some have censured him for playing *fast and loose*. He is likewise *Overseer* of the (6) *Golden Mines*, which he daily inspects when his Health will permit him.

He was long bred under a (7) *Master of Arts*, who instilled good *Principles* in him, but these were soon *Corrupted*. I know not whe-

(6) *Golden Mines*.] So call'd from the Colour of the Ore, and the common Term of *Gold-Finders*.

(7) *Master of Arts*.] Meaning the Belly, in Allusion to that Passage of *Perfius*, *Magister Artis, Ingeniq; Largitor, Venter*.

ther

ther this deserves mention, that he is so very capricious, as to take it for an equal Affront to talk either of *kissing* or *kicking* him, which hath occasion'd a thousand Quarrels : However, nobody was ever so great a Sufferer for Faults, which he neither was, nor possibly could be guilty of.

In his *Religion* he has thus much of the Quaker, that he stands *always covered*, even in the Presence of the King ; in most other Points, a perfect (8) *Idolater*, altho he endeavours to *conceal* it : for he is known to offer daily Sacrifices to certain *Subterraneous Nymphs*, whom he worships in an *humble Posture*, *prone on his Face*, and *stript stark Naked* ; and

(8) *Idolater*.] In leaving Offerings at the Necessary-House ; he alludes to the Sacrifices offer'd by the *Romans* to the Goddess *Cloacina*, President of all Chapels of Ease.

so leaves his *Offerings* behind him, which the (9) *Priests* of those Goddesses are careful enough to remove upon certain Seasons, with the utmost Privacy at *Midnight*, and from thence maintain themselves and Families. In all *urgent Necessities* and *Pressures* he applies himself to these Deities, and sometimes even in the *Streets* and *Highways*, from an Opinion that those Powers have an Influence in all Places, altho their peculiar Residence is in Caverns under Ground. Upon these *Occasions* the fairest Ladies will not refuse to *lend* their *Hands* to assist him: For, altho they are ashamed to have him *seen* in their Company,

(9) *Priests.*] *Gold-Finders*, who perform their Office in the Night-time: but our Author seems further to have an Eye to the Custom of the Heathen *Priests* stealing the Offerings in the Night; of which, see more in the Story of *Lell* and the *Dragon*.

or even so much as to hear him named; yet it is well known, that he is one of their *constant Followers*.

He lives from *Hand to Mouth*, but however, the greatest and wisest People will trust him with all their ready Money, which he was never known to (10) *Embezzle*, except, very rarely, when he is sacrificing to his Goddesses below.

In *Politicks*, he always submits to what is *uppermost*, but he peruses Pamphlets *on both Sides* with great Impartiality, tho' seldom till every body else hath done with them.

(10) *Embezzle.*] Too much haste on these pressing *Occasions*, the Author means, has often been the Cause of dropping Money out of our Breeches.

His *Learning* is of a mixed kind, and he may properly be called a *Heluo Librorum*, or another *Jacobus de Voragine*; tho his Studies are chiefly confined to (II) *School-men, Commentators, and German Divines*, together with *Modern Poetry and Criticks*: And he is an *Atomick* Philosopher, strongly maintaining a *Void* in *Nature*, which he seems to have fairly proved by many *Experiments*.

I shall now proceed to describe some Peculiar Qualities, which in several Instances seem to distinguish this Person from the common Race of other Mortals.

(II) *School-men, &c.*] Here the Author gives a *clean Wipe* on these Performances, as most contemptible in themselves; consequently, most proper for the *Necessary House*.

His *Grandfather* was a Member of the *Rump* Parliament, as the *Grandson* is of the *Present*, where he often *rises*, sometimes *grumbles*, but never *speaks*. However, he lets nothing pass *willingly*, but what is (12) *well digested*. His *Courage* is indisputable, for he will take the boldest Man alive (13) *by the Nose*.

He is generally the (14) *first a Bed* in the Family, and the *last up*, which is to be lamented, because when he happens to *rise before* the rest, it hath been thought to forebode some *good Fortune* to his *Superiors*.

(12) *Digested*.] The Beauty of this Expression lies in the Ambiguity betwixt the Digestion of *Thought* and *Food*.

(13) *By the Nose*.] This explained by the Note, No. 5.

(14) *First a Bed*.] This relates to the Proverb, *You rose with your A--se foremost, you are so lucky to-day*.

As

As Wisdom is acquired by Age, so by every new (15) *Wrinkle* in his *Face*, he is reported to gain some *new Knowledge*.

In him we may observe the true Effects and Consequences of *Tyranny* in a State; for, as he is a great *Oppressor* of all *below* him, so there is nobody more *oppressed* by those *above* him: Yet in his Time, he hath been so highly in Favour, that many *Illustrious Persons* have been entirely indebted to *him* for their (16) *Preferments*.

He hath discovered from his own Experience the true *Point* wherein all human Actions, Pro-

(15) *Wrinkle*.] This refers to another—
You have one *Wrinkle* in your *A*—se more than you had before.

(16) *Preferments*.] I refer the Reader for an Explanation of this Passage, to *Bembo's Lives of the Cardinals*.

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jects and Designs do chiefly (17) *terminate*; and how *mean* and *sordid* they are *at the Bottom*.

It behoves the Publick to keep him *quiet*, for his *frequent Murmurs* are a certain Sign of *intestine Tumults*.

No Philosopher ever lamented more the *Luxury*, for which these Nations are so justly taxed; it hath been known to cost him (18) *Tears of Blood*: For in his own Nature he is far from being *profuse*, tho indeed, he never stays a Night at a Gentleman's House without *leaving something behind him*.

(17) *Terminate.*] I conceive the Author means no more by this, than that our highest Performances, either of Hand or Head, in plain Words, amount to no more than a T—.

(18) *Tears of Blood.*] *Hamorrhoides*, according to the Physicians, are a frequent Consequence of Intemperance, which is here our Author's meaning.

He

He receives with great Submission whatever his Patrons think fit to give him; and when they lay *heavy Burdens* upon him, which is frequent enough, he gets rid of them as soon as he can; but not without *some Labour* and *much Grumbling*.

He is a perpetual *Hanger-on*; yet nobody knows how to be *without him*. He patiently suffers himself to be kept *under*, but loves to be well used, and in that Case will sacrifice his *Vitals* to give you *Ease*; and he has hardly one Acquaintance for whom he hath not been (19) *Bound*; yet, as far as we can find, was never known to *lose* any thing by it.

(19) This Turn of Humour depends on the different effects of being *bound in Law* and *bound in Body*.

He

He is observed to be very (20)
unquiet in the Company of a
Frenchman in *New Clothes*, or a
 young *Coquet*.

He is, in short, the Subject of
 much *Mirth* and *Raillery*, which
 he seems to take well enough, tho'
 it hath not been observ'd, that ever
 any good Thing came from himself.

There is so general an Opinion
 of his Justice, that sometimes very
hard Cases are left to his Decision:
 And while he sits upon them, he
 carries himself exactly *even between*
both Sides, except where some
knotty Point arises, and then he is
 observed to *lean* a little to the
Right or *Left*, as the *Matter* in-
 clines him; but his Reasons for
 it are so manifest and convincing,
 that every Man approves them.

(20) *Unquiet*.] Their Tails being generally
 observed to be most restless.

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